

HOUSE RESOLUTION 136

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Hollins, Sr., of
Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Hollins, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, John Hollins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an eminent Nashville attorney whose career in law spanned more than fifty years, Mr. Hollins served with acumen and alacrity as cofounder of the law firm Hollins Raybin & Weissman, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his legal work over the course of thirty-five years, having retired in 2011; and

WHEREAS, John Hollins may be best known in Nashville for his pro bono defense of Jeffrey Womack for more than thirty years, starting in 1975, after Mr. Womack was wrongfully accused in one of the city's most notorious murder cases; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hollins is part of the celebrated Vanderbilt Law School class of 1957, which included, among others, Jim Neal, George Barrett, Tom Higgins, Thomas Shriver, William Henry, Jim Gilliland, Al Abbey, John Jay Hooker, Hardy Moyers, and Jimmy Evans. John Hollins also worked with Ed Yarbrough, a former U.S. Attorney, in private practice for thirty-one years; and

WHEREAS, John Hollins wore many hats over the course of his extensive and laudable career, having served as president of the Nashville Bar Association, assistant district attorney, and a trial lawyer who practiced litigation, complex domestic relations cases, and criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hollins eventually took up poetry in 2002 and wrote nearly 200 poems, memorizing many of them; and

WHEREAS, John Hollins was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hollins enjoyed the loving companionship of Carol Sue Vaught Hollins and was the proud father of Laura Grey Hollins, John Jordan Hollins, Jr., and Carol Hollins Roden. He was also a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren, Caroline Elizabeth Roden, Jordan Kelly Roden, Meredith Grace Hollins, and Emily Bryant Hollins; and

WHEREAS, John Hollins leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of John Hollins, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hollins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.